

# Premium Mortar



## DESCRIPTION

*Premium Mortar* is a premixed, no-mess alternative to traditional thin-set mortars that require water and mixing. It is nonflammable and ready to use.

## WHERE TO USE

- Specifically formulated for interior-only installations of most ceramic, quarry, porcelain and most types of marble and natural-stone tiles in light-duty residential applications, such as walls, countertops and floors
- Can be used for glass tiles up to 6" x 6" (15 x 15 cm) in dry areas when installed per the tile manufacturer's and industry's requirements

## SUITABLE SUBSTRATES (interior residential only)

- Concrete (cured for at least 28 days)
- Masonry block
- Cement backer units (see manufacturer's installation guidelines)
- Properly primed gypsum wallboard
- Exterior-grade plywood in dry areas only: 2 layers (minimum thickness of 1-1/4" or 3.2 cm) for floors, and 1 layer (3/4" or 19 mm) for countertops

Consult MAPEI's Technical Services Department for installation recommendations regarding substrates and conditions not listed.

## LIMITATIONS

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- Do not install over substrates containing asbestos.
- Do not apply over waterproofing, crack-isolation or uncoupling membranes; radiant- or thermal-heated subfloor systems; gypsum-based patching or leveling compounds; sheet vinyl; vinyl composition tile (VCT); existing ceramic, porcelain or natural stone; self-stick tile; laminate surfaces; fiberglass surfaces; poured epoxy floors; hardwood flooring; presswood; particleboard; chipboard; oriented strand board (OSB); Masonite; Lauan; gypsum floor-patching compounds; metal; or similar dimensionally unstable substrates.
- Recommended for interior use only
- *Premium Mortar* can be used in intermittent wet conditions such as backsplashes, countertops, shower walls and floors.
- Do not use for steam rooms or areas subject to water immersion.
- Do not use in submerged applications.
- Do not use to install granite.
- Do not use to install moisture-sensitive stone such as green marble.
- Do not use as a mortar underneath cement backer boards.
- Use only at temperatures between 50°F and 95°F (10°C and 35°C).
- This product is only for setting, not grouting.
- Drying times will vary depending on the tile size, tile/substrate porosity and humidity. Drying times for glass tiles can be greatly extended.
- This product should not be used with tiles larger than 20" (51 cm) on any side.
- Do not use *Premium Mortar* to build up or level a substrate. Instead, use a cement-based patching or leveling compound.
- Do not use for setting bathroom fixtures or grab bars.

## SURFACE PREPARATION

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See the "Surface Preparation Requirements" reference guide in the Tile & Stone Installation Systems section of MAPEI's Website.

## MIXING

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Before product use, take appropriate safety precautions. Refer to the Safety Data Sheet for details.

- *Premium Mortar* is ready to use. No mixing is required.

## PRODUCT APPLICATION

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Read all installation instructions thoroughly before installation.

1. Choose a notched trowel (see the “Approximate Coverage” chart below) with sufficient depth to achieve at least 90% transfer to the back of the tiles. To help ensure proper coverage, “back-butter” the tiles by using the straight edge of a notched trowel or a margin trowel to spread a thin coat of the adhesive onto the back of the tiles.
2. With pressure, apply a coat by using the trowel’s flat side to key mortar into the substrate. Using the trowel’s notched side, spread the mortar in one direction; do not trowel *Premium Mortar* with a “swirl” pattern or technique.
3. Spread only as much mortar as can be tiled before the product skins over (after about 20 to 30 minutes). To test for skinning, simply place a finger into the ridges of the applied adhesive; if no adhesive transfers to the finger, skinning has occurred. Scrape off the skin and replace it with fresh adhesive.
4. Place tiles firmly into the wet mortar. Push the tiles back and forth in a direction perpendicular to the trowel lines, to collapse the mortar ridges and help achieve maximum coverage. Ensure proper contact between the mortar, tiles and substrate by periodically lifting a few tiles to check for acceptable coverage.

## GROUTING TIPS

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- Let the mortar dry completely before grouting. Note: Low absorption rates of the tiles and substrate, as well as a lower substrate temperature, will directly affect and slow down the drying time for all adhesives.
- Walls: Grouting may be done the day following the installation.
- Floors: Grouting may generally be done after 24 to 48 hours, depending on the tiles used. Larger tiles such as 12" x 12" (30 x 30 cm) will generally take longer to reach a firm set than smaller tiles such as 6" x 6" (15 x 15 cm). Glass tiles may take longer than 72 hours to set before grouting. Make sure that tiles are secure before grouting.

## CLEANUP

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While the mortar is fresh, use only water to clean tools and tiles. If the mortar has dried, use mineral spirits.

## PROTECTION

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- Protect containers from freezing in transit and storage.
- Protect floors from foot traffic for at least 24 to 48 hours after grouting.
- Walls should be protected from impact, vibrations and heavy hammering on adjacent and opposite walls for at least 14 days after installation.
- Protect from heavy traffic for 7 days.
- Protect from water exposure for at least 72 hours after completion.

## Shelf Life and Application Properties

Shelf life	1 year when stored in original, unopened packaging at 73°F (23°C)
VOCs (Rule #1168 of California's SCAQMD)	20 g per L

## Packaging

Size
Pail: 1 U.S. gal. (3.79 L)
Pail: 3.5 U.S. gals. (13.2 L)

## Approximate Coverage\*

Typical Trowel	Coverage per 1 U.S. gal. (3.79 L)	Coverage per 3.5 U.S. gals. (13.2 L)
Flat-back tiles up to 4" x 4" (10 x 10 cm) 3/16" x 3/16" (4.5 x 4.5 mm), saw-tooth	32 to 36 sq. ft. (2.97 to 3.34 m <sup>2</sup> )	112 to 126 sq. ft. (10.4 to 11.7 m <sup>2</sup> )
Tiles from 4" x 4" (10 x 10 cm) up to 8" x 8" (20 x 20 cm) 1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4" (6 x 6 x 6 mm), square-notch	20 to 24 sq. ft. (1.86 to 2.23 m <sup>2</sup> )	70 to 84 sq. ft. (6.50 to 7.80 m <sup>2</sup> )
Tiles from 8" x 8" (20 x 20 cm) up to 20" (51 cm) on one side 1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4" (6 x 10 x 6 mm), square-notch	15 to 17 sq. ft. (1.39 to 1.58 m <sup>2</sup> )	52.5 to 59.5 sq. ft. (4.88 to 5.53 m <sup>2</sup> )

\*Coverage shown is for estimating purposes only. Actual jobsite coverage may vary according to substrate conditions, type of equipment and application methods used.

## RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Reference guide: "Surface preparation requirements" for tile and stone installation systems\*\*

\*\* At [www.mapei.com](http://www.mapei.com)

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Refer to the SDS for specific data related to health and safety as well as product handling.

For information on MAPEI's commitment to sustainability and transparency, as well as how MAPEI products may contribute to green building standards and certification systems, contact [sustainability\\_USA@mapei.com](mailto:sustainability_USA@mapei.com) (USA) or [sustainability-durabilite@mapei.com](mailto:sustainability-durabilite@mapei.com) (Canada).

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For the most current product data and BEST-BACKED<sup>SM</sup> warranty information,  
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